New Hampshire Outdoors

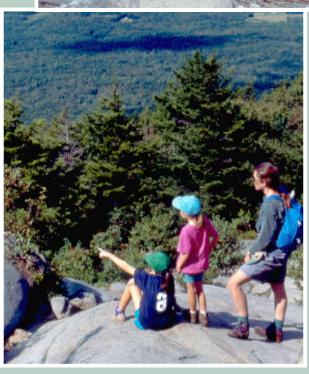
2003-2007

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan









March 2003



Prepared by the New Hampshire Office of State Planning

NEW HAMPSHIRE OUTDOORS, 2003-2007

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

GOVERNOR

Craig R. Benson

OFFICE OF STATE PLANNING

Jim F. McLaughlin, Assistant Director

DEPARTMENT OF RESOURCES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

George M. Bald, Commissioner Richard McLeod, Director of Parks and Recreation

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents List of Figures and Tables Acknowledgements			
A.	Pu	ION 1 - OVERVIEW rpose w Hampshire Outdoors	1
C. D.	Wł Pla	hat is Outdoor Recreation anning Process cus of Plan	
		ION 2 - RECREATIONAL SUPPLY, DEMAND AND NEED ends And Highlights	7
B. Recreation Supply C. Outdoor Recreation Participation, Demand And Need 1. National Trends			10 25
	2. 3.	State Information Factors Affecting Recreation Demand Community Recreation Information	
		ION 3 - ISSUES OF STATEWIDE IMPORTANCE verview of Issues Statewide	52
		scussion of Six Individual Issues	-
	1.	Stewardship of the Resource Base for Outdoor Recreation a. Overview and Conditions in New Hampshire b. Recommendations	54
	2.	Providing Different, Sometimes Competing, Recreational Opportunities a. Overview and Conditions in New Hampshire	69
	3.	b. Recommendations Apply Limited Financial And Human Resources To Address A Range Of Recreation Needs	83
	4.	a. Overview and Conditions in New Hampshireb. RecommendationsEducation Of Recreational Users, Municipalities, And Landowners About	95
	7.	Responsible Behavior, Laws, and Liability a. Overview and Conditions in New Hampshire b. Recommendations	90
	5.		103

6. Impo	ortance of Local Outdoor Recreation Opportunities and Open Space	114		
Prote	ection in Promoting Increased Health and Wellness			
а	. Overview and Conditions in New Hampshire			
t	. Recommendations			
C. Implementation and Overall SCORP Planning Needs				

APPENDICES

- A. 1997 Outdoor Recreation Needs Assessment: Summary Report
- B. 2002 SCORP Public Advisory Committee Forum (June 21): Summary Report
- C. 2002 SCORP Stakeholder Survey Summaries; Section 1 and Section 2
- D. Agency and Program Roles and Responsibilities
- E. Wetlands Component
- F. OPSP Process
- G. References
- H. Steering Committee/Public Advisory Committee Organizational Members
- I. List of Acronyms

LIST OF FIGURES AND TABLES

		-
List of Figu	<u>ires</u>	
Figure 1.	Counties of New Hampshire	1(
Figure 2.	Public and Private Conservation Lands in New Hampshire	12
Figure 3.	Percentage of Recreation Lands Federally or State Owned by County	16
Figure 4.	Outdoor Recreation Participation: At Least Once a Month	25
Figure 5.	NH Fish and Game Management Regions	36
Figure 6.	Household Participation in Water-Based Activities	37
Figure 7.	Does NH Need Additional Water Access?	37
Figure 8.	What Type of Water Access Should Be Given Priority?	38
Figure 9.	Boating Registrations in New Hampshire	41
Figure 10.	New Hampshire State Park Visitation Trends	44
Figure 11.	Per Capita Disposable Personal Income	45
Figure 12.	Locations of Exotic Aquatic Plant Sites in NH	63
Figure 13.	Public Water Access Sign Initiative	98
List of Tab	<u>les</u>	
Table 1.	Conservation Lands by Owner and Protection Type	11
Table 2.	State and County Population Statistics, Land Acreage & Recreation Supply	13
Table 3.	Number of Sites by Selected Activity Types	14
Table 4.	Recreational Land Acreage by Owner Type	15
Table 5.	NH Fish and Game Public Water Access Sites	17
Table 6.	Miles of Shoreline and Public Access Sites	18
Table 7.	Current Use Lands – 2001	19
Table 8.	Current Use Lands with Recreational Adjustment	20
Table 9.	DRED Lands and Reservations, 2002	20
Table 10.	DRED - Use Classifications	2
Table 11.	1997 Trails Inventory	23
Table 12.	Nationwide Participation Rates in 1994 and 2000	27
Table 13.	Participation Rates and Frequency of Participation	31
Table 14.	Perceived Spending Priorities for Outdoor Recreation	33
Table 15.	Importance of Selected Recreation-related Management Objectives	33
Table 16.	Most Visited Lakes, Ponds and Rivers in NH	37
Table 17.	Fishing, Hunting and Combo Licenses in New Hampshire	4]
Table 18.	Wheeled Off Highway Vehicle and Snowmobile Registrations	42
Table 19.	Actual and Projected Population by County: 1970-2020	46
Table 20.	Rate of Population Change in New Hampshire Counties	47
Table 21.	Municipal Demand for LWCF Assistance Since 1990, New Hampshire	48
Table 22.	Reported Community Recreational Needs	49

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The production of *New Hampshire Outdoors 2003-2007* was coordinated by the Office of State Planning (OSP) with assistance provided by the Department of Resources and Economic Development (DRED). DRED is responsible for administering the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program in New Hampshire. Special recognition is given to the SCORP Steering Committee for their valuable advice and direction given throughout the course of the project. Thanks are also due to the SCORP Public Advisory Committee for their input and feedback on issues and recommendations (organizations listed in Appendix H).

SCORP Steering Committee

Jacquie Colburn, Department of Environmental Services
Dick Hamilton, White Mountain Attractions
Gladi Hartford, Granite State Independent Living
Tom Jameson, Department of Transportation
Nancy Lynch, New Hampshire Celebrates Wellness
Johanna Lyons, Department of Resources and Economic Development
Kerry Mucher, New Hampshire Recreation and Parks Association
Charlie Niebling, Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests
Robert Robertson, University of New Hampshire
Judy Silverberg, New Hampshire Fish and Game Department
Todd Souza, New Hampshire Recreation and Parks Association

OSP Staff

Laura Pfister – Principal Planner/Project Manager Ben Frost – Senior Planner Ken Gallager – GIS Data and Map Production Heather Spear – Graphic Assistance Denise Adjutant – Editorial Assistance

DRED Staff

Ben Haubrich - Director, Office of Recreation Services Torene Tango-Lowy - Recreation Resource Specialist Jen Roy - Recreation Services Program Assistant

The production of this report was financed in part through a planning grant from the National Park Service, Department of the Interior, under provisions of the Land and Water Conservation Act of 1965 (Public Law 88-578).

Cover Photo Credits: Bear Brook State Park (biking) - *NH State Parks/Mary Chase*; Rye Marina (motor boating) - *NH State Parks/Mary Chase*; Monandnock State Park (hiking) - *NH State Parks/Paul Howe*; Lake Francis State Park (kayaking) - *NH State Parks/Paul Howe*.